

Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council
Report to House and Senate Committees on
Government Operations
Recommendations Regarding ACT141 on
Transitioning Between Level of Law Enforcement
Certification, and Changes to the Scope of
Practice for Level II Certification

Act No. 141 required the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council to make recommendations on the following:

On or before January 15, 2015, the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council shall submit to the House and Senate Committees on Government Operations:

(1) the Council's recommendation regarding the manner in which a law enforcement officer should be able to transition to a different level of law enforcement officer certification, once the officer has obtained one of the levels of certification described in Sec. 5 of this act, 20 V.S.A. § 2358 (minimum training standards; definitions); and

(2) after consulting with the Vermont Police Association, Inc., the Chiefs of Police Association of Vermont, the Vermont Constables Association, the Vermont Sheriffs' Association, Inc., and a representative from the Department of Public Safety, any Council recommendation regarding whether there should be any changes to the scope of practice for any of the levels of law enforcement officer certification described in Sec. 5 of this act, 20 V.S.A. § 2358.

The Council convened its Rules Committee to address both tasks and worked with representatives of almost all the groups named above to arrive at consensus on the recommendations. The Vermont Constables Association was unable to provide a representative to the working group, but their representative to the Council participated in the discussion regarding the report and voted in favor of its provisions.

Attached to this document is the report prepared by the working group and submitted to the Council for review during its December 16th meeting. The Council unanimously approved the recommendation in its entirety.

Transitioning Between Certification Levels

The working group recognized the difficulty of providing academy-level training (which includes practical exercises, frequent reinforcement of lessons, and a training environment that strongly promotes discipline and professionalism) off-site and over what could be years, and recommended that the transition from Level II certification to Level III certification require attendance at a full time basic training academy, either here or in another state. The recommendation does include the Council granting a specific Level III authority to a Level II officer based on a rigid set of criteria.

Changes in Scope of Practice

Recommendation #1 in the report is that an expended scope of authority for Level II, the additions highlighted in bold.

Recommendation #2 is that a Level IIC be created, for those officers already holding Level II certification. The standards for this level include a minimum number of hours worked within a

designated number of years prior to July 1, 2015, that these hours have been spent in patrol-type activities, and that the agency head endorse the designation. This level will not be available to any officer receiving certification after H.765 goes into effect.